

79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 79th anniversary of the Ukrainian famine-genocide, a tragedy that claimed the lives of an estimated 7 to 10 million Ukrainians between 1932 and 1933. I rise today to commemorate the lives of those who perished at the hands of Josef Stalin's Soviet Union and to remember the suffering of the Ukrainian people.

Using food as a weapon, Stalin's barbaric regime orchestrated a famine of genocidal proportions, attempting to suppress the Ukrainian nation by systematically starving its people. In 1932, the Soviet government confiscated Ukraine's grain crop as "social property" and executed anyone who resisted the seizure. Then, in an action that clearly reveals the murderous motivation behind the Soviet plan, the Red Army closed Ukraine's borders, sealing in the starving people who were trying to flee and shutting out any outside aid.

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian famine, referred to as the Holodomor, remains one of the least known human tragedies, in part because of generations of denial by the Soviet Union. By claiming the famine was the result of drought, food shortages, or other natural causes, the Soviet government engaged in a pernicious type of behavior that Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has called a "double killing." The Soviet Union carried out a deliberate campaign between 1923 and 1933 to eliminate the Ukrainian nation, killing millions of victims, and in the subsequent years denied that it ever happened, attempted to kill the memories of the victims.

There should be no doubt that the Holodomor was manmade and deliberate, a fact that has been confirmed by evidence gained through the opening of the Soviet archives over the last decade. This evidence will help ensure that the horrors of the Ukrainian famine-genocide are never repeated and the memories of the victims are never forgotten.

Another way we are ensuring that the Holodomor remains in our collective consciousness is the creation of a memorial in our Nation's capital honoring the famine's victims. Set to open next fall, the Ukrainian Famine Memorial is the product of cooperation among the Congress, the Ukrainian Government, and the 1.5 million strong Ukrainian-American community. The memorial will provide a reminder to us all that tyranny must not go unchallenged and that victims of inhumanity must never be forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the victims of the Holodomor on its 79th anniversary.

HONORING DIRECTOR JOE JUDGE
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Director Joe Judge upon his retirement from the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Joe has been a Director at the Santa Clara Valley Water District since 1986, when the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors appointed him as At Large Director to represent North County. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1996 to represent District 2, which includes central and downtown San Jose, portions of East San Jose, and Willow Glen.

During his tenure, he served as vice chairman in 1995 and 2009. Joe also served as chairman in 1989, 1996, and 2004. Joe championed the importance of Santa Clara County's water supply and flood protection. He gained community support for eighteen flood protection projects totaling \$529 million for District 2, including eight projects for the Guadalupe River, four projects for Calabazas Creek, mitigation plantings at the Children's Discovery Museum, erosion repair along the Los Gatos Creek, and the construction of a local child care center. He played a key role in the development of the Guadalupe River Park as a collaborative effort within the District.

While at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, he was able to help ensure that the county had a plentiful pure water supply, improve our water infrastructure, and preserve our watersheds, creeks, and trails. He advocated for state and federal policies to resolve long-standing Delta issues, including the restoration for the Delta ecosystem and a reliable Delta conveyance system.

Joe graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in business administration. He owns and operates his construction firm, Judge Construction. As a local businessman, he provided an open channel of communication between the business community and government, which advanced water conservation countywide. As a dedicated public servant for 26 years, his presence will be missed.

Director Joe Judge is retiring and I wish him all the best in the years to come. I commend Joe for his valuable service and wish him the best in his future endeavors. The community is very fortunate to have benefited from his expertise, passion, and commitment. He has left his mark in Santa Clara County.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER CROATIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary as

a parish on Sunday, October 14, 2012. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Father Stephen Loncar, parish pastor, on this special occasion. The 100th anniversary festivities will begin with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10 a.m. at the church, celebrated by the Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek, Bishop of Gary. After the service, a banquet will be held at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana.

I would also like to commend the members of the Saint Joseph the Worker Parish Council and Anniversary Committee for the work they have put forth in the planning of this momentous event. Members include: Robert Balash, John Benich, Larry Brown, Irene Flores, Glenda Garriot, Charlene Gyurko, Anne Krpan, Tom Lashenik, Carmen and Frances Lenzo, Cheryl Lenzo, Sam and Celeste Linde, Marta McCobb, Marian Nicksich, Peter Podnar, Charlene Reynolds, Joe Ruda, Nick and Esther Sanchez, Mike Stulac, Guy and Rose Sutton, Kathy Swanson, Rosella Tuszyński, Michael Velasco, and Paul Yurkas.

In 1906, Croatian immigrants, comprised mainly of small business owners and steel workers, arrived to the growing city of Gary, Indiana, seeking employment opportunities and a better quality of life. Upon arrival, the immigrants dealt with numerous obstacles and prejudices, including a difficult language barrier. In order to create a sense of community with the hope of preserving Croatian heritage and culture, they joined together to create their own parish, and in 1913, Holy Trinity Croatian Catholic Church was built. The church continued to grow over the years due to the unwavering dedication of its leaders and parishioners. By 1919, a parochial school was added under the leadership of Reverend Charles Jesih of Croatia. Due to the growing population, the church continued to expand, and by 1956, under the leadership of Father Venceslav Ardes, a new larger church was completed and consecrated Saint Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana. One hundred years ago, the immigrants longed for a parish where they could attend mass in their own language and today that practice remains. The pioneers would be proud to know that this tradition is still alive today.

The church continues to seek innovative ways to sustain the traditions and ideals of the Catholic Church throughout Gary and Northwest Indiana. In 2009, Saint Joseph the Worker joined in an alliance with the Gary Cluster Parishes, a group formed by pastors and commissions with the goal of maintaining the Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church on the 100th anniversary of its founding. Throughout the years, the leaders and parishioners of the church, both past and present, have dedicated themselves to preserving Croatian tradition and upholding the values of their Catholic religion. For their commitment to public service and for touching the lives of countless individuals, the leaders and parishioners are worthy of the highest praise, and I wish Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church many prosperous years to come.